

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

1312251509 H.A.-2. 7

STATE	Maryland
COUNTY:	Harford
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Wildfell or The Scott House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

"Wildfell" (Rocky Point)

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Berkley Road  
South side of U. S. 1, Conowingo Road, about 0.1 mile west of

CITY OR TOWN:

Darlington

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY:

First

Harford

CODE

025

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY  
(Check One)

- ☐ District ☒ Building  
☐ Site ☐ Structure  
☐ Object

OWNERSHIP

- ☐ Public  
☒ Private  
☐ Both

Public Acquisition:

- ☐ In Process  
☐ Being Considered

STATUS

- ☒ Occupied  
☐ Unoccupied  
☐ Preservation work  
in progress

ACCESSIBLE  
TO THE PUBLIC

- Yes:  
☒ Restricted  
☐ Unrestricted  
☐ No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Agricultural  
☐ Commercial  
☐ Educational  
☐ Entertainment

- ☐ Government  
☐ Industrial  
☐ Military  
☐ Museum

- ☐ Park  
☒ Private Residence  
☐ Religious  
☐ Scientific

- ☐ Transportation  
☐ Other (Specify)

Comments

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

William H. and Leona Scott

STREET AND NUMBER:

Conowingo Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Darlington

REF

STATE:

Maryland 21034

CODE

24

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET AND NUMBER:

Harford County Courthouse

40 Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Maryland Register

DATE OF SURVEY:

1970

☐ Federal☒ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:

2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This octagonal frame house is set in a fine grove of poplar trees on a knoll about 1 1/2 miles northwest of Darlington on the Conowingo Road, U. S. 1.

Two stories high, the eight-sided roof is topped by an octagonal "captain's walk," flanked by two brick chimneys. The house faces southeast, as shown on the sketch on continuation sheet number one, with one or two openings in each wall. A narrow one-story wing runs northwest, 3 bays by 1. There is a three-sided porch facing east, southeast, and south.

Entering from the southeast into a shallow hall, we find winding stairs on the left. Two doors in front of us lead into two parlors of equal size separable by sliding doors. Each has a fireplace back-to-back with one in each of two smaller rooms beyond, the old kitchen and the dining room, the kitchen fireplace is closed off by a new furnace flue. There are deep closets in each of these chimney walls, with one now made in to a powder room.

The octagon fad, prevalent in the 1850's is found in barns, in one-room schools, and in four-story mansions; it was executed in many architectural styles from gingerbread Victorian to orientalesque mansions to the plainest little house; and it is found in all the contemporary building materials, even in an experimental poured concrete form in the 1850's.<sup>1</sup> Windfell is a simplified Federal style, a moulding tops the boxed eaves, and is repeated on the porch above its octagonal pillars.

The six-panelled front door in a plain frame is topped by a four-light transom. Windows have six lights over six behind louvered shutters. Inside we find that doorways have no mouldings, doors have four panels, mantlespieces are of simple federal design downstairs while upstairs there are mantle shelves on brackets. The stairway has two turned banisters on each step under a walnut handrail.

Perhaps unique to this house are the exterior walls whose construction is of narrow planks laid horizontally, nailed from above as the work proceeded, forming an almost solid chinking in the walls if there is framing, or forming an almost solid wall if, as is thought, this is the method of construction.

<sup>1</sup>Carl Schmidt, The Octagon Fad (Scottsville, N.Y.: By the Author, 10 Rochester Street, 1958). pp. 1 - 12.

(see continuation sheet 2)

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Harford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
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Wildfell or The Scott House

No. 7. Description Continued.

Treatment at the corners has never been reported since this method is visible only under the shutters of the false window to the left of the front door, a window that would have opened out from the side of the staircase, but is placed to complete the symmetrical appearance of the house.

As of March 7, 1976 per KGB's updated address listing of property owners, the new owners are:

Mr. and Mrs. Walter B. Jourdan  
Darlington, Maryland phone 457-4269

Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Reeves  
Darlington, Maryland phone 457-4021

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kelly, 3rd  
Quaker Road  
Darlington, Maryland phone 257-5664

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian

☐ 16th Century

☐ 18th Century

☐ 20th Century

☐ 15th Century

☐ 17th Century

☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal

☐ Education

☐ Political

☐ Urban Planning

☐ Prehistoric

☐ Engineering

☐ Religion/Phi-

☐ Other (Specify)

☐ Historic

☐ Industry

lasophy

☐ Agriculture

☐ Invention

☐ Science

☒ Architecture

☐ Landscape

☐ Sculpture

☐ Art

Architecture

☐ Social/Human-

☐ Commerce

☐ Literature

itarian

☐ Communications

☐ Military

☐ Theater

☐ Conservation

☐ Music

☐ Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wildfell is one of the rare octagonal houses built in Maryland at the height of "the Octagon Fad"<sup>1</sup>. Tradition holds that the Joseph Jewett family contracted with an ex-Navy carpenter named William Hensel to bring ship's timbers from a de-commissioned ship in Baltimore that had served in the War of 1812. The Jewetts, a Baltimore family, used this as their summer place between March 1854 and June 1874, when they moved to Virginia.

Five generations of the Scott family have now lived in this house and farmed the fields since it was purchased in 1874. Wakeman Scott was known for raising successful trotting horses; his grandson Will Scott is an engineer.

<sup>1</sup>Carl Schmidt, The Octagon Fad (Scottsville, N. Y.: By the Author, 10 Rochester Street, 1958), p. 31.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Story of Harford County. #19 in a series of monographs unsigned, published by The First National Bank of Aberdeen. No date.

Schmidt, Carl F. The Octogan Fad. Scottsville, N. Y. By the Author. 10 Rocester Street. 1958.

Whiffen, Marcus, American Architecture since 1780. Cambridge Massachusetts. M.I.T. Press. 1969. pp. 83-86.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes Seconds
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		39 39 05	76	13 11
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jean S. Ewing DATE: April 1973

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name: Orlando Ridout IV

Title: State Preservation Officer For Maryland

Date: May 29, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

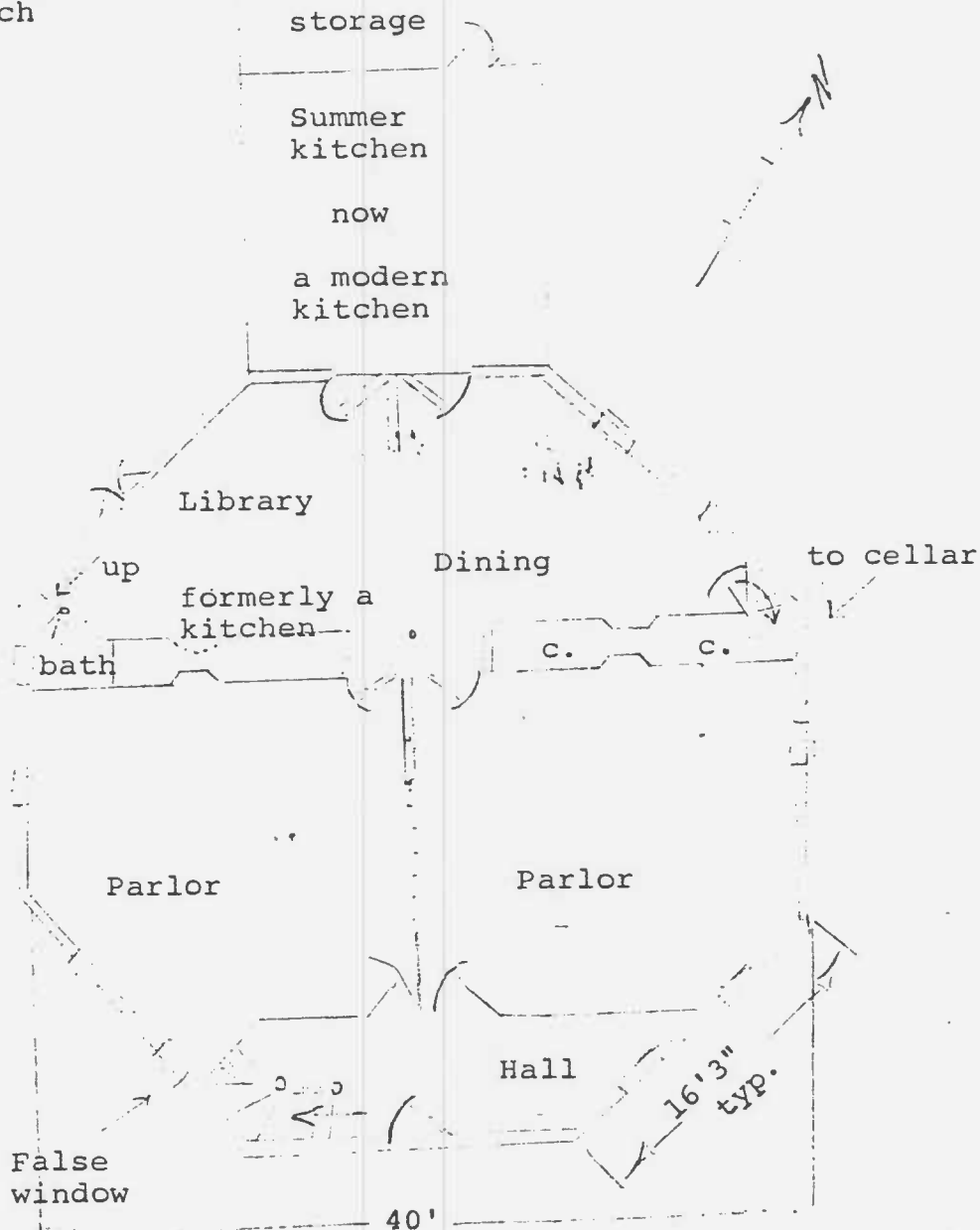
STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Harford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

HA-2

(Number all entries)

Wildfell or The Scott House

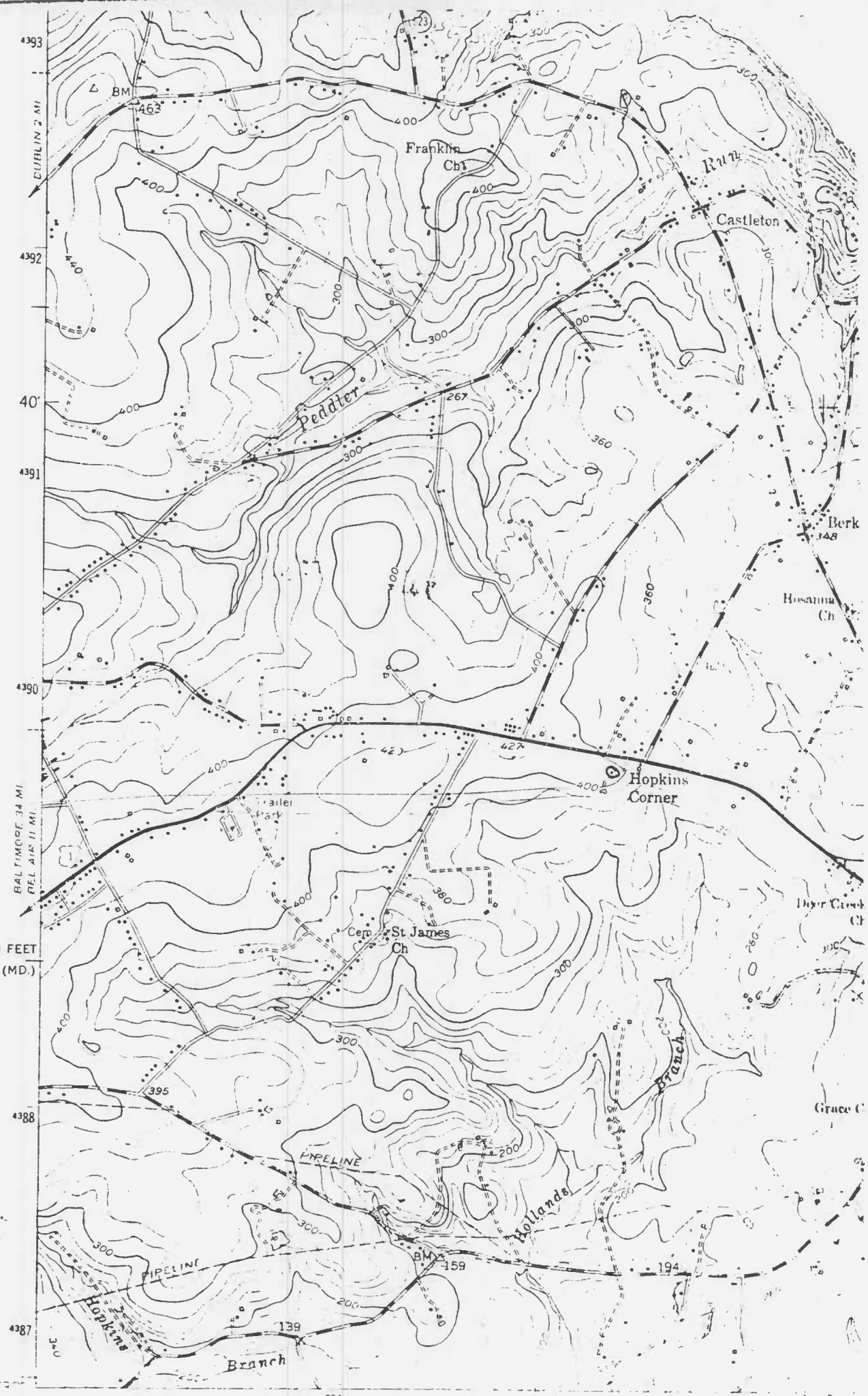
No. 7 Description.  
Sketch



Wild fell

HA-2

660 000 FEET  
(MD.)



1. STATE <b>Maryland</b> COUNTY <b>Harford County</b> TOWN <b>Darlington</b> VICINITY STREET NO.		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <b>HA - 2</b>	
ORIGINAL OWNER <b>Mrs. Joseph Jewett</b> ORIGINAL USE <b>Dwelling</b> PRESENT OWNER <b>William H. Scott, Jr.</b> PRESENT USE <b>Dwelling</b> WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>Frame</b> NO. OF STORIES <b>2</b>		2. NAME <b>Wildfell</b> DATE OR PERIOD <b>1840's</b> STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER <b>William Hensel</b>	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE OPEN TO PUBLIC <b>NO</b>	
<p>Wildfell is a frame house of octagonal shape. It was built in the 1840's for Mrs. Joseph Jewett by William Hensel who, it is believed, built it from the timbers of an old ship he purchased. It is two stories high with a pyramidal roof which is capped with an octagonal railing. Each side of the octagon has one window or door, except the two sides next to the front door which have two windows on each floor. There is a one-story porch on these latter three sides. The front door is very plain with a six-panel door and transom. There is a kitchen on the side opposite the front door. There are two brick chimneys nearly in the center of the house. The entire house sits on a stone basement. It is the only octagonal dwelling in Harford County.</p> <p><u>Good condition</u></p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered    Interior    Exterior			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <p><b>Michael O. Bourne</b></p> <p>DATE OF RECORD <b>March 11, 1968</b></p>	





HA-2

WILD FELL